

Fact Sheet

State Budget Cut Impacts

Quick Facts

- The state's adopted and proposed cuts will have a cumulative impact of approximately \$23 million reduction for Public Health – Seattle & King County and our services.
- Most of this reduction (\$20M) is from two specific budget cuts:
 - 50% reduction in Medicaid support for Maternity Support Services, effective March 1, 2011
 - Across-the-board reduction in Medicaid reimbursement for federally qualified health centers (FQHC), effective January 1, 2011
- Other cuts include the elimination of our tobacco prevention program, reduction in core state support for public health, and reductions in other Medicaid programs, notably adult dental and family planning.
- These cuts are on top of 2009-2011 reductions totaling \$32.9 million and 344 positions.

Staff Impact

- This week, Public Health – Seattle & King County has to lay off valuable staff, primarily as a result of the Maternity Support Services reduction.
- On January 13, we are eliminating 123 positions effective Feb. 28:
 - 87 Direct service staff (includes nurses, social workers, dentists, dental assistants, interpreters, and education specialists)
 - 24 Clinic support staff (includes patient services representatives and health program assistants)
 - 12 Central administrative staff and program management (includes nurse supervisors, administrative supervisors and assistants, program administrators and managers, a finance officer, and an IT system engineer.)

Impact on the Community

- Maternity Support Services help mothers have healthy babies, preventing low birth weight births by screening at-risk mothers and supplementing their prenatal care with services to improve birth outcomes.
- One in three women giving birth in Washington receives Maternity Support Services. MSS serves more than 30,000 low-income women and infants in King County.
- Cuts to MSS and other safety net programs disproportionately impact our poorest and most vulnerable residents, including pregnant women, newborns and low-income working adults.
- These cuts will result in more illness and death, and actually cost taxpayers more in the long-run by increasing expensive emergency room visits and hospital stays.

Solution

- Cutting funding for life-saving services is not the solution. We urge the state to restore MSS to a high level and allow for flexibility in how we deliver care so we can be more cost-efficient.